

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Sprunk, et al.)	Confirmation No.: 7975
)	
U.S. Serial No.: 10/049,812)	Customer No.: 000043471
)	
Filed: December 27, 2001)	Art Unit: 2136
)	
)	Examiner: Hoffman, Brandon S.
Title: MULTIPLE LEVEL PUBLIC KEY HEIRARCHY FOR PERFORMANCE AND HIGH SECURITY		

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on January 12, 2007, please enter the following remarks.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a/e)

Claims 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a/e) as being anticipated by Van Oorschot et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,850,443, issued December 15, 1998). Applicants disagree.

Van Oorschot discloses transporting, in different degrees of security strength, a symmetric key encrypted using an asymmetric encryption technique, and along with this transporting ciphertext derived from plaintext encrypted under this symmetric key. The encryptor encrypts the plaintext using a symmetric whose strength is commensurate with